

NEW YORK, JULY 22 (AP)—THEODORE C. SORENSON, THE LATE PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S SPECIAL COUNSEL, SAYS KENNEDY REGRETTED HE HAD NOT CANCELED THE FUTILE 1961 CUBAN BAY OF PIGS INVASION. SORENSON SAYS KENNEDY LATER REALIZED HE HAD BEEN BADLY ADVISED.

SORENSON PROVIDES HIS VERSION OF THE APRIL 1961 EVENTS IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF LOOK MAGAZINE. THE MAGAZINE CARRIES AN EXCERPT OF HIS BOOK "KENNEDY," TO BE PUBLISHED BY HARPER & ROW IN OCTOBER.

"HOW COULD EVERYBODY INVOLVED HAVE THOUGHT SUCH A PLAN WOULD SUCCEED," SORENSON QUOTED KENNEDY AS SAYING LATER. "HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO FAR OFF BASE? ALL MY LIFE I'VE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO DEPEND ON THE EXPERTS. HOW COULD I HAVE BEEN SO STUPID, TO LET THEM GO AHEAD?"

SORENSON SAID THE BAY OF PIGS DISASTER "SEEMED TO MOVE MYSTERIOUSLY AND INEXORABLY TOWARD EXECUTION WITHOUT THE PRESIDENT'S BEING ABLE EITHER TO OBTAIN A FIRM GRIP ON IT OR REVERSE IT."

KENNEDY, IN OFFICE ONLY A FEW MONTHS, HESITATED TO OVERRULE "RENOWNED EXPERTS" WHO HAD THE PROJECT WELL UNDER WAY, SORENSON WROTE.

SORENSON SAID ASSURANCES THAT THE OPERATION COULD SUCCEED WITHOUT UNITED STATES INVOLVEMENT WERE A "WILD MISJUDGMENT."

THE ACCOUNT BY SORENSON AGREES SUBSTANTIALLY WITH THE VERSION OF ANOTHER KENNEDY AIDE, ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER JR., PUBLISHED THIS WEEK IN LIFE MAGAZINE.

SORENSON AND SCHLESINGER DIFFER WITH A THIRD ACCOUNT, BY RICHARD M. BISSELL JR., IN CHARGE OF PLANNING THE INVASION BY CUBAN EXILES FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. BISSELL'S VIEWS WERE IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN THIS WEEK TO THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR.

BISSELL SUGGESTED THE OPERATION WOULD HAVE HAD A "DAMNED GOOD CHANCE" OF SUCCEEDING IF SUFFICIENT U. S. AIR SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED. HE SPOKE OF POSSIBLE SUCCESS "IF WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DUMP FIVE TIMES THE TONNAGE OF BOMBS ON CASTRO'S AIR FIELDS..."

BISSELL DISAGREED WITH KENNEDY'S CANCELLATION OF A SECOND AIR STRIKE AGAINST CASTRO'S AIRFIELDS.

THE FIRST STRIKE WAS MADE EARLY SATURDAY, APRIL 15, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE LANDING. THE SECOND STRIKE WAS SET FOR DAWN MONDAY AFTER THE INVADERS HAD GONE ASHORE.

BUT, AFTER THE LANDING PARTY WAS ASHORE, CASTRO'S PLANES SANK SUPPLY SHIPS, THE INVADERS RAN OUT OF AMMUNITION AND THEY QUICKLY WERE ROUNDED UP BY CASTRO'S HEAVIER FORCES. THE BATTLE LASTED THREE DAYS.

SORENSON SAID THE CANCELLATION OF THE SECOND AIR STRIKE WAS UNIMPORTANT BECAUSE THE PROJECT WAS DOOMED BEFORE THAT.

"HE WOULD HAVE BEEN FAR WISER, THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME LATER, IF WHEN THE BASIC PREMISES OF THE PLAN WERE ALREADY BEING SHATTERED, HE HAD CANCELED THE ENTIRE OPERATION AND NOT MERELY THE SECOND AIR STRIKE," SORENSON WROTE.

SORENSON SAID THE PRESIDENT APPROVED THE PLAN WITH ASSURANCES THAT IT WOULD BE BOTH CLANDESTINE AND SUCCESSFUL. BUT, SORENSON WROTE, KENNEDY FOUND THAT "IT WAS TOO LARGE TO BE CLANDESTINE AND TOO SMALL TO BE SUCCESSFUL." HE CONTINUED:

"TEN THOUSAND EXILES MIGHT HAVE DONE IT--OR 20,000--BUT NOT 1,400, AS BRAVELY AND BRILLIANTLY AS THEY FOUGHT."

SORENSON WROTE THAT IF U.S. FORCES HAD "BEEN OPENLY COMMITTED," THEN "THERE WAS NO POINT IN BEGINNING WITH A CUBAN BRIGADE IN THE FIRST PLACE."